



SOCCER STAR

SERVING VICTORIAN SOCCER

MacKENZIE P. 8

BRIAN P. 3

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A 588\$ 1.40

VOL 1. No. 9.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24th, 1988

FAX: 527-6533

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PRICE: \$1.40

DISGRACE!



● Len McKendry

Australia, Israel cause havoc in Christchurch

AUSTRALIAN soccer is in disgrace and facing wide-spread condemnation as a result of the brawl that broke out during the Olympic Games qualifying match against Israel in Christchurch last Sunday.

The kicking incident that resulted in the dismissal of Socceroo defender Garry McDowall has provoked a storm of protest both here and in New Zealand. But whilst New Zealand Football Association chairman Mr Warwick Gendall is quoted as saying he is appalled at seeing such behaviour in

New Zealand, the people in charge of the Socceroo party seem unwilling to take any action.

Judging by reports coming from New Zealand, both team manager Andrew Lederer and coach Frank Arok seem more concerned about a possible irregularity in the make-up of the New Zealand squad than in the damage done to the game.

Lederer says that New Zealand has already fielded one player, striker John Hanson, who played against Chinese Taipei but was not on the original list of players submitted before the tournament started.

Whether this is a red herring designed to draw

attention away from the McDowall episode is not clear, but fury is mounting in New Zealand.

Calling for a life ban on McDowall, NZ national youth coach Terry Connolly says the match was a disgrace to soccer.

"My biggest worry is the number of times the incident has been replayed on TV for young players to see," he said, whilst NZFA chairman Warwick Gendall has said that he never wants to see New Zealanders play that way.

"New Zealand always plays hard but clean football," he added.

The critical comments have not been confined to New Zealand, either.

Australian Olympic Association secretary Phil Coles said yesterday that he and his chairman, former Olympian Kevan Gosper had discussed the kicking incident and were aghast.

Mr Coles said that as it had happened during a qualifying series and not the actual games, his association had no power to act. But he added that if it had happened during the Games proper, the team manager would have sent the offending player home immediately.

He said the bottom line was that if Australia did qualify for Seoul, it was most likely that McDowall would not be acceptable as a team member.

VSF chairman Jack Reilly has called the episode deplorable and said, "If that's what we have to do to qualify for the Olympics, the game would be better off if we didn't bother."

Frank Arok's attitude is difficult to understand. In his aftermatch statements he seems more inclined to shift the blame away from his player on to anything else rather than to blame his player.

"It is war," he said, "we had a war out there. They (Israel) started a war. Regrettably one of our players lost his temper and he was sent off. I would have been very upset if it had not been the most fiery of all the players."

Does that mean that if, say Wally Savor, had been sent off it would have been more reprehensible, but because it was McDowall it was alright?

McKENDRY SAFE — FOR NOW

JUVENTUS coach Len McKendry is in no danger of being sacked, says senior vice-president Sam Manenti.

In a strongly-worded statement Mr Manenti assured SOCCER STAR this week that the committee had no intention of giving in to what he described as a bunch of outsiders, calling for McKendry's head.

"At the recent Annual General Meeting," he says, "members were reminded that Juventus has had more success in the NSL than any other Melbourne-based club.

"We won the 1985 Australian championship, and were Southern Division champions in '85 and '86. And last year we won the Dockerty Cup.

"Len McKendry might not be everyone's cup of tea, but he has a coaching record second to

none, and anyway we hired a coach, not a PR man.

"We aren't just pleasing ourselves, either, we consulted the players. Do these people who are calling for McKendry's head ever consider what the players think?

"We have found that the players are quite happy to play under him, and if these outsiders, who are not committeemen took the trouble to consult the players they would find that out for themselves."



● Noel Mitten



● John Gardiner

MITTEN, GARDINER ON THE CARPET

SUNSHINE George Cross coach John Gardiner and former Cross player Noel Mitten appeared in the Melbourne Magistrate's Court on Monday facing charges arising out of incidents after the Bill Fleming

presentation dinner last October.

Mitten and Gardiner were involved in scuffles with journalist Laurie Schwab and Melbourne Croatia identity Duze Zemunik.

Gardiner's impeccable record as player and coach impressed the magistrate, and the dual Rothmans Medal winner was placed on a 12 month good behaviour bond, whilst Mitten was found guilty and fined \$500.

● Continued Page 3

'MAD DOGS' COME HOME TO ROOST — PAGE 3

'HEAVIEST FINE EVER'

FIFA & ASF HOLD ENQUIRIES

In the latest developments of the McDowall saga, it is reported from New Zealand that FIFA, the world governing body of the game has now received a report on the Australia v Israel game from its observed, Sasha

Mahandra Singh of the Fijian Football Association.

Australia's own body, the ASF will also hold an enquiry, to be chaired by its president, Sir Arthur George.

Its findings will be sent to

the Australian Olympic Federation, and the International Olympic Committee as well as to FIFA.

Meanwhile, coach Frank Arok whilst standing up for his player, has fined him what he calls the heaviest fine he has ever

imposed on a player, removed to be \$1,500.

Since the Socceroos are on a bonus of \$2,500 for qualifying, the fine will hardly worry McDowall, in fact he would probably happily surrender all his bonus, if only the incident could be forgotten.



● Frank Arok

NSL LEADING GOALSCORERS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6. Farina (Marc.) | George), Palatsides |
| 5. Spink (Footsc.) | (Juve), Trimboli (South). |
| Phillips (APIA). | |
| 4. Gray (Marc.), R. | 2. Ainsworth (Woll.), |
| Stewart (Lions). | Brazil (Woll.), Carter |
| | (G.X.), Drury (Lions), |
| 3. Clark (G.X.), | Gomez (Marc.), Hagan |
| Easthorpe (Woll.), Egan | (St.G.), Koczka (St.G.), |
| (Juve), Lennon (G.X.), | Maxwell (Adcity), |
| McLaren (G.X.), | Nastevski (Marc.), |
| Meredith (Lions), | Pontidas (Olym.), Sand |
| Murphy (Mel. Croatia), | (Olym.), Vidmar |
| Oilerenshaw (St.) | (Adcity). |



● Gary McDowall

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Bob Brian tells about an entertaining game.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Garvey's Youngsters

Turn it on

THE Garvey grin is wider than ever.

He has just watched his youngsters beat Apia Leichhardt 5-4 and the supporters are happy.

Even Rale Rasic, coach of the Warrumbidgee, cannot criticise the afternoon's entertainment.

But soccer wouldn't be soccer if there wasn't an underlying atmosphere of discontent.

And so it is at Middle Park.

Brian Garvey, the man with the magic touch where youth is concerned, looked at the four goals lost and said: "We really have to do something to tighten up the defence."

"That's eight goals we have lost in our last two games and we can't always count on scoring five."

"That's a problem we will have to look into carefully."

It is, as we all know, in the nature of things for coaches to look for perfection.

Garvey is no different. "The puzzling thing is that up to recently it is our defence which has carried us through some hard games."

"It's a bit of a worry I can tell you."

"It's the most experienced part of our team and you just don't expect it to slip up very often," he said.

Pressure

My own observation is that the exuberance of youth has put a lot of pressure on the defence unwittingly.

Having watched



● Brian Garvey

While Garvey will work on encouraging a less flamboyant attitude, there are already several supporters who have an answer to the problem...

Three times I was approached, after last Sunday's game by fans who see this as the answer to the problem.

I don't necessarily agree but can understand their concern.

Laumets is the last of the transfer-listed players still to find another club.

DONCASTER ROVERS
VICTORIAN LEAGUE
Division Two

urgently requires
a goalkeeper.

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Settled

Gary McDowall (Juventus), Stuart Stevenson (Preston), Danny Crainie (Wellington), Carl Halford (Oakleigh) and Charlie Egan (Juventus) are all settled elsewhere.

There is little chance of Laumets being recalled and so Con Giatos is rightly being given the opportunity to gain confidence as the acknowledged first team goalkeeper.

Giatos needs time and exposure if he is to fulfill his promise and I doubt if Garvey has any plans to drop him despite his concern over the defence.

Garvey described the performance against Apia as "naive", but he has no intention of changing his youth policy because of that.

The two players he is most interested in signing are Anthony Grbac of Juventus, and John Anastasiadis, of Heidelberg United.

Although both have National League experience, they are both under 20.

Garvey is, in fact, working for the future of South Melbourne Hellas rather than the present and by doing so will undoubtedly save the club a lot of money on transfers as well as producing a team worthy of its place in the West End National League.

As far as I can see, Hellas' supporters have



● Peter Laumets (left)... some South Melbourne fans want him back.

no reason to complain. Last Sunday's game was one of the most entertaining I have ever seen in the NSL.

Techniques

It's up to coaches to pick out flaws in their teams' techniques, and no doubt the mistakes gave some cause for concern.

But almost 3,000 people left Middle Park satisfied that they had been given value for money.

And they are the people who really matter if the game is to thrive.

"MAD DOGS"

Continued From Page 1

Arok himself must bear a fair portion of the blame for an episode that will haunt McDowall for the rest of his professional career, however long that might be.

He has always praised McDowall in terms that lauded him as the team's hard man, which might explain why he was so reluctant to criticise him after the game. It seems that the term 'mad dogs' which he coined before the World Cup qualifying match against Scotland has finally come home to roost.

ASF Executive Director Brian Emery could not be reached for a comment, but a spokeswoman for the ASF said that no written report had yet reached the office, so how could we expect the ASF to call a Board Meeting to discuss the matter?

Alan Davidson was sent back home on Tuesday, not in disgrace, but with a suspected fractured toe. Since McDowall is suspended for at least the New Zealand game, would it not have made sense for him to be sent back with Davidson?

Or does team manager Andrew Loderer have the power to send back only the injured players and not the naughty ones?

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NSL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
MARCONI	7	5	2	2	13	8	10
WOLLONGONG	7	4	2	1	11	8	10
GEORGE CROSS	7	4	1	2	15	14	9
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	7	3	2	2	7	3	8
SOUTH MELB.	7	2	4	1	11	10	8
Sydney Croatia	6	4	0	2	8	9	8
Brisbane Lions	7	3	1	3	12	10	7
Footscray	7	1	4	2	8	8	6
APIA Leichhardt	7	3	0	4	11	13	6
Melbourne Croatia	6	2	2	2	6	9	6
Juventus	7	2	1	4	6	9	5
Adelaide City	7	1	3	3	6	12	5
St. George	7	2	0	5	12	13	4
Preston	7	0	4	3	1	6	4

YOUTH LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PRESTON	7	6	0	1	21	8	12
STH. MELB.	6	4	2	0	19	5	10
MELB. CROATIA	7	3	3	1	17	12	9
SUNSHINE G.X.	6	4	0	2	22	6	8
Clarinda	7	4	0	3	15	19	8
Oakleigh	6	2	3	1	16	16	7
Caulfield City	7	3	1	3	13	15	7
Bu Juventus	6	2	2	2	11	9	6
Heidelberg	6	2	1	4	1	7	6
Clifton Hill	7	1	4	2	14	19	6
Footscray	7	2	1	4	7	13	5
Nunawading	7	0	2	5	7	24	2
Wav/Mulgrave	6	0	0	6	5	20	0

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS — ROUND 7

S. GEORGE CROSS 9 CLARINDA 0
OAKLEIGH 1 CLIFTON HILL 4
NUNAWADING CITY 2 PRESTON MAK. 3
FOOTSCRAY 0 CAULFIELD CITY 3
HEIDELBERG 0 B. JUVENTUS 0
MEL CROATIA 3 WAV/MULGRAVE 0
SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 4

(Lennon 17th, Parton 25th, Clark 81st, McLaren 90th)
ST. GEORGE 1
(Moffitt 29th)

MATCH RATING

for a postponement and is now probably ruling the fact that it didn't. But it didn't suffer in the goalkeeping department, where former Youth international George Bouhoutsos performed admirably. George started off in lively fashion and after only 17 minutes took the lead when lively Gary Clark took on two defenders and as the ball ran loose Mark Lennon pounced and drove the

Man of the match: DON McLAREN

These are changed days at Chaplin Reserve. The George fans have seen so many goals scored recently, eleven in the previous two games, that they become audibly restless if a mere half-hour passes without a score.

In the second half on Sunday, with George comfortably in command fans around me were shouting "wake up George!"...are these the same people who spent all last season biting their fingernails down to the quick? With Mike Gibson, Andrew Koczka and Scott Ollerenshaw away on International duty...well travelling with Arok anyway...St. George could have asked

ball past Bouhoutsos. Lennon's improvement since he returned from overseas has been a big bonus for CrossM. Then Shaun Parton scored an amazing goal as he leaped higher than the goalkeeper and just bulldozed the ball into the net. I think George grew a little complacent then and began to take winning for granted with the result that the defensive marking became very slack. St. George brought the George defenders back to earth though, as Craig Moffitt pushed up front, ghosted in to score. John Gardiner was not amused and said so at halftime. George's forwards started off the second half keeping Bouhoutsos pretty busy but couldn't beat the keeper, whilst St. George kept plugging away hopefully. The visitors should have levelled when Choi's cross deceived Sean Keogh and the ball fell beautifully for young Zoran Ilic, but the striker miscued badly and the chance went begging. Then Pedro Ricoy crossed well to Kevin Hagan, but the former Kiwi striker headed straight into a grateful Keogh's arms. Then it was Don McLaren's turn to miss when it was easier to score and as Shaun Parton headed another chance wide, the fans started to get restless. Fortunately for their humour, George decided to turn it on for the last twenty minutes or so. John Campbell to John Markovski to Gary Clark was sweet stuff and Clark finished it off in classy fashion as he shrugged off two defenders and planted the ball past Bouhoutsos. But the best was kept for the very last. Don McLaren, of all people, who is not renowned for his shooting power particularly unleashed a guided missile from just outside the box that found its way unerringly into the

NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

NSL ROUND 7 DETAILS

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 4

(Lennon 17th, Parton 23rd, Clark 81st, McLaren 90th)
ST. GEORGE 1
(Moffitt 29th)

at Chaplin Reserve Sunday. Crowd 2000. Referee J. Fearn, Caution Hagan (St.G).
GEORGE CROSS: Keogh 7, Marth 6, Waddell 7, Parton 7, Campelj 7, Carter 7, McLaren 8, Markovski 7, Lennon 7, Clark 7, Marcovac 7, Coach John Gardiner.
ST. GEORGE: Bouhoutsos 7, Green 6, O'Connor 6, O'Shea 6, Grbevski 6, Pottier 6, Ricoy 6, Choi 6, Hagan 6, Moffitt 7, Ilic 6, Coach Atti Abonyi.

FOOTSCRAY 2

(Spink 39th, Murphy 88th)
ADELAIDE CITY 2

(Maxwell 50th & 65th)

at Schintler Reserve. Crowd 1800. Referee D. Voutsinas. Cautions Shillabeer, Mullen (Ad) Mitrevski (Footsc).
FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic 5, van Egmond 7, Karic 5, Deankovic 5, Fabrizio 5, Murphy 7, Tapai 7, Mitrevski 4, Bozinovski 7, Djmoski 6, Spink 8, Coach Mirsad Fazlagic.
ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica 6, Shillabeer 6, Flounders 7, Nyskohus 7, Northcote 6, Santrac 5 (Sorensen 57th), Melta 7, Villani 6, Vidmar 7, Mullen 6, Maxwell 7, Coach Zoran Matic.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 5

(Trimboli 2nd, Postecoglou 40th & 69th (pen) Taliadoros 64th & 90th)

APIA LEICHHARDT 4

(Stewart 21, Phillips 35th & 47th, Ward 83rd)

at Middle Park Sunday. Crowd 2701. Referee C. Bambridge.
SOUTH MELBOURNE: Giatas 6, Healy 6, Russell 7, Blair 7, Postecoglou 8, Foster 6, Kalogeros 6, Tasios 7, Michell 6 (Taliadoros 70th), Trimboli 8, Wright 6, Coach Brian Garvey. (Fernandes too)
APIA LEICHHARDT: Pezzano 6, De Marigny 4, Brown 5, Reynolds 5, Watson 5, Tredinnick 5, Butler 5, Stewart 6, Zajmi 5, Phillips 8, McKinna 6, Coach Rale Rasic.

BRISBANE LIONS 1

(Stewart 19th)

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 0

at Richlands Saturday Crowd 1061. Referee W. Monteverde.
BRISBANE LIONS: Kearton, Cummings, Liddell, Niven, Mengotti-Ogden, Stewart, Bassingthwaite, Dwyer (Wheeler HT), Lightbown (Kerr 72nd), Meredith. Coach Juan Cutillas.
JUVENTUS: Marrawa, Lewis, Durakovic (Herd 70th), Borwin, Marley Zinni, Patterson (Lane 75th), Dowie, Incantalupo, Palatisides, Egan. Coach Len McKendry.

MARCONI 2

(Gray 15th, Gomez 79th)

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 0

at Marconi Stadium, Saturday. Crowd 2418. Referee J. McConnell. Cautions Henderson, Sharnie (Marc), Jackson, Tasevski (PM).
MARCONI: Catlin, Carter, Henderson, Calderan, Wheatley - Mason, Gomez, Gray, Surjan, Lowe, Gunning (Sharnie 66th).
PRESTON: Traianides 9, Opasinis 7, Jackson 8 (Piculovski HT 6), Tasevski 8, McLennan 6, Gojevic 6, Stewart 7 (Slikas 83rd), Campbell 6, Petrov 6, Smith 7, Stevenson 6, Coach Ernie Merrick.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

WOLLONGONG 1

(Brazil)

at Sydney Football Stadium, Sunday. Crowd 4616. Referee G. Power.
SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier Barrett, Haniotis, Dakos, Hooker Saad, Pontidas (Raskopoulos 65th), Polak, Lee, Patalis, Soper. Coach Mick Hickman.
WOLLONGONG: Young, Skeen, Vietstra, Ratcliffe, Hollifield - Crainie, Ainsworth, Morlando, Brodnik - Brazil, Keys. Coach John Fleming.

top corner of the net as Bouhoutsos was left groping. It was a wonderful finale. As Alf Zahra, who must wear out two microphones a season was exhorting the fans to turn up next week to see Wollongong with Alan Brazil, Paul Marriner, Uncle Tom Cobley and all, a deliriously excited fan in red and white yelled at me "they can bring who they bloody well like, we'll beat 'em", and that's the mood at George these days...I hope it goes on.

NSL — ROUND 8
Sunday March 27th 1988
MELBOURNE CROATIA v. FOOTSCRAY
PRESTON MAKEDONIA v. SYDNEY OLYMPIC
SOUTH MELBOURNE v. BRISBANE LIONS
SUNSHINE G.X. v. WOLLONGONG CITY

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE — RD 8
Sunday March 27th 1988
MELBOURNE CROATIA v. FOOTSCRAY
CAULFIELD CITY v. NUNAWADING CITY 1.00pm
PRESTON v. OAKLEIGH
SUNSHINE G.X. v. CLIFTON HILL
SOUTH MELBOURNE v. HEIDELBERG UTD.
WAVERLEY/MULGRAVE UTD v. BRUNSWICK U.J.
CLARINDA v. B.Y.

Murphy to the rescue

FOOTSCRAY 2 (Spink 39th, Murphy 88th)
ADELAIDE CITY 2 (Maxwell 50th, 69th).

Cultured Adelaide City seeking desperately to hoist itself out of the danger zone gave a disappointing Footscray a rare fright on Sunday before the Blues were rescued by midfielder turned sweeper Ken Murphy with only two minutes to go.

Footscray's liveliest forward, Warren Spink, sent his team in for the break a goal in front after he had run onto a through ball from Ernie Tapai and beat a defender and goalkeeper Robert Zabica to squeeze the ball into the bet. But five minutes after the interval Steve Maxwell broke his duck for the season to level for Adcity.

It was a wellworked goal too veteran Brian Northcote, standing in for the absent Alex Tobin at left back crossed for fellow fullback Paul Shillabeer who planted a

nicely weighted ball into Maxwell's path and the burly striker went on to hit his shot past Zoran Nikitovic. Fifteen minutes later Adelaide City took command as Maxwell picked up a pass from Sergio Melta and shot low past the keeper. Footscray was struggling

Man of the match Warren Spink

to keep up with the visitors and Adelaide City looked certain to take the points home. But as time ebbed away, Footscray put more desperation into its work and after Tapai had unluckily hit the post, Murphy came upfield as Footscray was awarded a freekick. The ball came to him via Zdravko Lujic and with an outstretched foot he managed to poke it past Zabica for the equaliser

LUCKLESS PRESTON

MARCONI 2 (Gray 15th, Gomez 79th)
PRESTON 0

Marconi went to the top of the ladder with a good win with a weakened team over luckless Preston.

Both goalkeepers, Bob Catlin of Marconi and Phil Traianides of Preston gave outstanding displays in a match that was fast open and entertaining. Marconi played with such flair that it is hard to see how Berti Mariani is going to find room for Frank Farina, Leon de Jong and Tommy McCulloch when they return from International duty, let alone the injured Zlato Nastevski and Peter Katholos.

Preston weren't disgraced by any means but are facing a difficult time with both central defenders Steve Jackson and Zoran Tasevski both suspended for the upcoming game against Olympic and John Stewart and Stuart Stevenson both carrying injuries.

Add to that the fact that the muchlauded import Saso Pekovski has been an unfit flop and you could understand if Ernie Merrick was starting to fret a little.

But he isn't and stoutly maintains that on the form his team showed against Marconi winning days are only just around the corner.

Man of the match Phil Traianides

After that it was a very even affair with Preston giving as good as they got. In the space of ten minutes Marconi keeper Catlin saved three times in rapid succession from Steve Gojevic and Preston always seemed likely to level. Peter Sharnie came on for Jeff Gunning in a moment of nostalgia to record his 200th NSL appearance in the 66th minute and soon made his presence felt. He and Craig Mason combined to send Gomez clear to score Marconi's second, and end any hopes Preston had of snatching a pointM

Super-sub Kim saves the day

SOUTH MELBOURNE 5 (Trimboli 2nd, Postecoglou 40th, 69th pen, Taliadoros 64th, 90th).
APIA LEICHHARDT 4 (Stewart 21st, Phillips 35th 47th, Ward 83rd).

In one of the most dramatic games ever seen in the NSL South Melbourne snatched victory over a gallant Apia in the dying seconds through young substitute Kim Taliadoros.

South's inform striker Paul Trimboli put South ahead after only two minutes, when he banged home Danny Wright's cross and for the next twenty minutes South looked as if it was cruising to its second victory of the seasonM. But a defensive lapse after a freekick allowed Darren Stewart in to level for Apia in the 21st minute.

In the 35th minute the South fans were stunned to silence as fullback Angie Postecoglou, attempting to pass back to goalkeeper Con Giatas, miscued horribly and passed to Hilton Phillips instead and the Apia striker had the easiest of tasks to walk the ball past Giatas and

into the empty net.

However, Postecoglou made amends only five minutes later storming forward in his usual manner and equalising after a Steve Tasios shot had been charged down. Two minutes after half.

Man of the match: ANGIE POSTECOGLOU

time. Phillips put Apia ahead once again with a shot from the edge of the box that left Giatas groping. South wasn't done with thoughN and counter attacked fiercely. Young Harry Micheil playing his first full game hit the crossbar with a fierce volley, then was foiled when Tony Pezzano plucked the ball off his toe. Then in a storybook finish, Kim Taliadoros came on for Micheil and Gary Ward replaced

Darren Stewart for Apia, and the two substitutes scored three goals between them in the last half hour.

First Taliadoros with a towering leap over a defender headed home David Healy's cross to level the scores again. Five minutes later, another storming run by Postecoglou took him into the penalty area where he fell over Jean Paul de Marigny's legs and was awarded a penalty.

He took the spotkick himself and put South ahead, Giatas then foiled Ward and Laurie McKinna in quick succession before Ward equalised with only three minutes to go.

South was still fighting for the points and when Trimboli burst through and shot hard at Pezzano, the goalkeeper could only parry the ball and Taliadoros was on hand to slam home the rebound.

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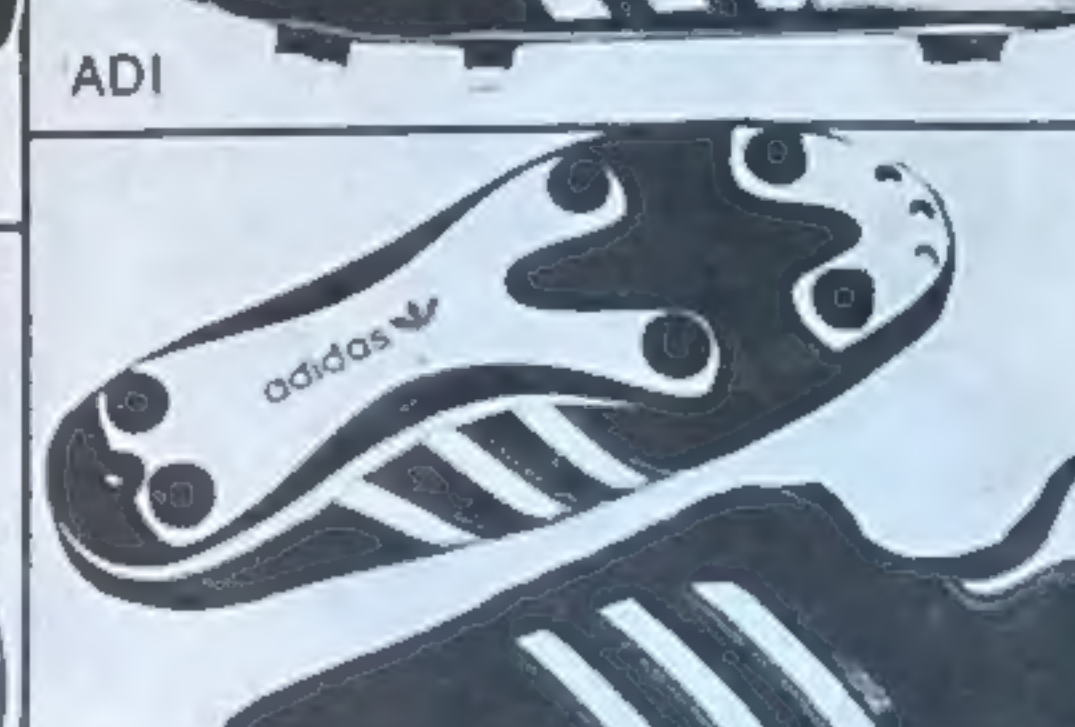
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● George's Shaun Parton climbs to score a spectacular goal.



● Shaun Parton shows his strength.



● Gary Clark



● Craig Mollitt, St George's goalscorer.

● Les Shorrock captured all the action when George Cross defeated St. George 4-1 in a National League thriller at Sunshine, on Sunday.

PRAHRAN-BRIGHTON A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK

LOOK out for the Second division Victorian League combine Prahran City-Brighton Soccer Club.

THIS Scottish-backed club, which wears the familiar hoops of the great Celtic of Scotland, has welcomed the amalgamation of the two clubs for a number of reasons.

Primarily it has allowed for one strong club to be formed, both on and off the field. Home ground for the combine, in the form of Dendy Park, has very good facilities, which, according to committeeman Peter Burns, is a vast improvement on those which Prahran City had previously experienced.



Victorian League Round-up with ANGELO STICCA

coach the combine this year, and with a fairly strong squad to work with, he will be hoping to get some good results on the board. New signings for this year include ex-State League player Stevan Luxford from Croydon City, and it is also interesting to note that Dom Trimboli, younger brother of Paul Trimboli of Hellas, is showing a lot of promise which club officials must be hoping will one day result in

Dom emulating the feats of his elder brother. Pre-season form has been impressive so far, and the Prahran City-Brighton Soccer Club will be hoping that its good start to the season will result in success in avoiding the large cut of teams at the end of the season, and ultimately a championship win.

According to club secretary Steven Martin, this year has seen wholesale changes to the bay-side club. "We have signed eleven new players so far, and only

Division Three VICTORIAN League third division team Moorabbin City Soccer Club is con-

three of the last year's senior players are still in the squad this year," Mr Martin told Soccer Star. Coaching the team this year is David Christians, who is one of the younger coaches in Victorian soccer, being in his mid-thirties.

New signings for this year include Paul and David Luca from Dandenong City, Perry Mur from Springvale and former State League player Neil Collyer.

Bailey Reserve is Moorabbin's home-ground, and the club is also affiliated with the East Bentleigh Moorabbin juniors.

Pre-season form has proved to be most encouraging with 12 practice matches having been played to date with some very good wins amongst these.

Confidence that 1988 will prove to be a successful season

coupled with an enthusiastic and rebuilt team is surely a step in the right direction for Moorabbin City.

With these factors behind it, the bayside club is halfway towards realising the success it is striving for this season.

★★★

Rovers Welcome Greek Bearing Gifts

DONCASTER Rovers refute the adage "Beware of Greeks bearing gifts" because of their pre-season success under new coach Kris Kallitidis.

Kris who played soccer for Victoria and Australia at junior and senior level, refused to outlay money on transfer fees until he had seen what was available from

the Rovers ranks, had notched up a 100 per cent record so far with two wins in the Dockerty Cup and a win last Saturday against Mornington in the Metro Cup. Doncaster's squad consisting mainly of ex-Rovers juniors saw the return this year of ex-juniors Neil Skinner (Sunbury) and Robbie Nikolidis (Heidelberg), and captained by Ian Humble back after being injured last year.

This week sees the return after three months overseas of George Maliaros and Michael Sowards, both award winners and first team regulars in 1987.

Kris, still seeking a goal keeper to complete his squad has played between the posts this year and came out of goal to score the equaliser against Williamstown. That's "Mr Versatility" for you.

VICTORIAN & PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP RESULTS

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE CUP

Dingley Skye v	
Berwick City	31
Mitcham Un. v. Monash University	0-1R
Brunswick City v.	
South Dandenong	1-0
Westmeadows v.	
Cranbourne	1-0pm
Uni. of Melb. v.	
Meadow Park	3-1
South Yarra v.	
Debnay Park	2-0
Ascot Vale City	w-o
North Sunshine v.	
South Springvale	1pm 2-0
Prahran v. Mossfield	
Rangers	8-0
Monbulk v. Diamond	
Valley United	1pm 0-3
Forest Hill v. Melton	1-3

VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP

Doncaster Rovers v.	
Keysborough	5-6 1-1 f/t
Altona Gate v. Karingal United	5-0
Heidelberg City v.	
Sunbury United f/t	
1-1	2-1 ext. time
Westgate v. Bell Park	3-2
Pascoe Vale v.	
Altona City	2-1
Mordialloc v. Doveton	1-0
Springvale United v.	
North Geelong	2-1
Chelsea v. Albion	1-5
Essendon City v.	
Waverley City	0-2
Ringwood United v.	
Yarraville	2-1
Dandenong v.	
Langwarrin f/t 1-1	1-2 ext.
Sandringham City v.	
Mooroolbark	
4-5 pen. f/t 1-1 ext.time	
Rosanna v. Clarinda	1-5
Yallourn v.	
Frankston Pines	0-2
Hawthorn v. Clifton Hill	2-4
East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City	
v. Prahran/Brighton	2-1

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP

Berwick City v.	
Ballarat	3-1 pen. 1-1 ext. t.
Forest Hill v.	
Mitcham United	10-0
Monbulk v.	
Malvern City	1-2
North Sunshine v.	
Kew Eagles	3-1
Parkmore v. Uni of	
Melbourne	1-2
Ardeer v. Mossfield	
Rangers	5-0
Cranbourne v. South	
Dandenong	0-3
Brintons v.	
Brandon Park	f/t 0-0 3-2 e/t
Batman United v.	
Diamond Valley United	0-9
South Springvale v.	
Glenroy	5-2
Skye	6-5 1-1 f/t 1-1 e/t
West Meadows v. Monash	
University	3-1
Springvale Condors v.	
Ascot St Marks	0-1

THIS WEEKEND'S VICTORIAN and PROVISIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES

Saturday March 26th VICTORIAN LEAGUE CUP
KICK OFF 3 PM
Mooroolbark v. Frankston Pines
Westgate v. Heidelberg City
Altona Gate v. Pascoe Vale
Ringwood United v. Mordialloc
Springvale United v. Clifton Hill
Keysborough v. Clarinda
East Brunswick/Ivanhoe City v. Albion
Langwarrin v. Waverley City

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE CUP — KICK OFF 3 PM
Uni. of Melbourne v. Berwick City
Diamond Valley v. Haguel
Brintons v. North Sunshine
South Springvale v. Ascot St Marks

Kensington United v. Forest Hill
Ringwood Rovers v. Ardeer
Malvern City v. South Dandenong
Westmeadows v. South Yarra

PROVISIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE CUP — KICK OFF 3 PM
Springvale Condors v. North Sunshine
Ascot Vale City v. Dingley/Skye
South Yarra v. Monash University
Westmeadows v. Prahran KO 1 PM
Malton v. South Dandenong
Diamond Valley United v. Malvern City KO 1 PM
Kew Eagles v. Ringwood Rovers
Uni. of Melbourne v. Lyndale United KO 1 PM

SUNDAY MARCH 27th PROVISIONAL LEAGUE RESERVE CUP — KICK OFF 3 PM
Kew Eagles v. Ringwood Rovers v. Waverley

SUNDAY MARCH 27th AMATEUR LEAGUE — DIV. ONE
Anstey United v. Phillip Institute
Balwyn City v. Northern Suburbs
Collingwood City v. Melbourne Uni.
Diggers Rest v. Latrobe University
Endeavour Hills v. Hawthorn United
Waverley Wanderers v. Epping Thistle
Bye v. Kallitidis United

AMATEUR LEAGUE — DIVISION TWO
Concord v. Camberwell Grammar
Diamond Valley v. Upfield
East Richmond v. RMIT
Inter City v. Old Scotch
Maccabi v. Fortan United
Oakleigh United v. Yarra United



● Pat McIlhenny (fourth from left bottom row) lines up with Prahran Celtic last season.

PHOTOGRAPHS

All the pictures in "SOCCER STAR" are available for sale. For details of sizes and prices, ring the EDITORIAL OFFICE 527 2808 9am to 5 pm

I'VE BITTEN MY LIP ON MOST OCCASIONS, BUT WHY KICK A PLAYER IN THE HEAD?

I WAS seething after watching that Soccerroo kick his Israeli opponent in the head in New Zealand on Sunday.

My knee-jerk reaction was to call for the Soccerroo's sacking.

For goodness sake, what possesses any player who kicks another player in the head like that?

I've been assistant editor, then editor of the now defunct Soccer Action and from time to time I've seen players do things that would bring applause from a Tae-Kwon-Do expert.

I've bitten my lip on most occasions.

I've discussed such incidents with friends and colleagues and not gone into print about them, primarily because I'm not rich and can't afford to finance my defence on a libel suite.

But it's about time that we spoke of such incidents, publicised them in order that the people who administer the game here get off their backsides and force referees, linesmen and tribunal members to put a stop to it.

But don't start by conducting a witch-hunt, such as the horrendous McCarthyist period which blotted American politics in the 1950s.

No, let's wipe the slate clean.

Let's imagine that every player in Australia you've seen commit on the field

what amounts to thurgery, no longer intends, no matter what level of provocation he faces, to act like that again.

Kicking

Let's make players aware of the risk such acts will be to their soccer careers.

Let's make them aware that from now on, kicking an opponent in the head will be the last act the player ever commits in any official match in this country.

That way everyone concerned with a game at any level in this country goes into that game with a similar understanding, with the expectation that such acts will incur a sine die verdict at tribunal level.

But don't turn around now and make an example of the Soccerroo involved in Sunday's incident.

That would be incredibly hypocritical.

The people who administer the game have let many such incidents go virtually unpunished which sets a standard for actions on the field.

By
Craig
MacKenzie



Soccerroo involved, in the process hoping to wash most of the blood from their hands.

But that won't fool me.

Nor will it fool thousands of others.

I've long felt that Australian soccer was studded with violence on the field.

I'm not talking about brawls, rather, I'm talking about incidents such as the one we witnessed on Sunday, over-the-ball tackles, elbows in the face and the like acts, clearly outside the laws of the game but on show for all to view week-in, week-out, season after season.

Pathetic

It's pathetic.

It's one of the things that drives people away from the sport.

For others, like me, it simply leaves you numb.

You still love soccer, but not the Australian variety.

And that's sad.

Despicable

These are the people who must carry their share of the blame for the despicable act performed on Sunday.

The easy way out for them is crucify the



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CROYDON CITY 1988

Back Row: Miron Bleiberg (coach), Tony Redmond, Greg Brack, John Gabrielson, Graham French, Mirko Runje, Dave McIntosh, Andy Humble, Jim Tansey (asst. coach)
Jason Harbison, Nick van Egmond, Mark Brown, Jim Campbell, Goran Runje, Gordon Flavell.

CROYDON CITY

TWO GOALS FOR 1988

1988 is special and crucial for Croydon as the Club has set two major goals for the season.

The first one is to assure the Club's existence in the State League and also the financial support promised to the Club to enable it to finalise the new stadium and sports complex.

The second goal is to build a team to replace the successful team that won the past two championships.

There were two major problems.

Firstly, a financial one, and secondly the generation gap in the team, with on the one hand very old players, and on the other hand, young and inexperienced players.

The President, Michael Antolos, the Committee and the coach, Miron Bleiberg, decided to solve the problems in the following way.

It was decided to sell most of last year's squad and with the money gained to buy a few quality players to help to keep the team in the State League, and also with their experience, influence the younger players in training and matches.

Everything is working according to plan. We bought and sold players, and gained a

total sum of \$13,000.00. From the 19 squad members of the first team, there are 6 above the age of 25 years, and the other 13 players are between the ages of 16 and 25 years. The 6 experienced players are also committed to assist the junior teams of the Club, by attending training and games which is to help to build a strong team for the future and create a stronger connection between the junior and senior teams.

It may surprise some, but it is not Croydon's aim to win the Championship this season.

The Club's intention is to secure enough points so that towards the end of the season we can try out young players without the risk of relegation.

If we manage to win the Championship, it will be after all these goals are achieved.

This year's work has created a strong foundation that should produce benefits in the years to come.

The Board Members are as follows:
President: Michael Antolos.



● The men who matter. Club president Michael Antolos and coach Miron Bleiberg.

Committee

Brian Cubitt, Geoff Steventon, Peter Benson, Ann Deichen, Dave Miller, Ernie Howarth, Dennis Warner, Robert Howarth, Dorset Park Development Committee, Ted Dilworth and Sandy Wilson.

The first team squad is:
Goalkeepers: M. Runje and C. Nobbile.

Defence: M. Brown, T. Redmond, P. Langsbury, D. McIntosh, J. Gabrielson, A. Brant, C. Cubitt.

Midfield: G. Flavell, J. Campbell, N. van Egmond, G. Brack, J. Harbison, S. Field.

Strikers: G. French, A. Humble, G. Runje, R. O'Shea.

Coach: M. Bleiberg. Asst. Coach: J. Tansey. Team Manager: T. Smith.

Physiotherapist: R. Howard.

Croydon wishes to thank the following players who have finished serving the Club: K. Waterman, S. Beech, J. O'Reilly, J. Tansey, J. Nelson, S. Luxford and D. Brogan.

Bleiberg's Boys Shine



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STATE LEAGUE DETAILS

BULLEEN O MORWELL FALCONS O

At Veneto Club, Saturday. Referee A. Frangou. Sent off Jeff Doyle (M), cautions D'Amico, Boln (B), E. Cassar (M).
BULLEEN: Contini 7 — Ruccia 6, Boln 6, Romano 6, Curlio 5 (Sella 70th), Troglis 5, D'Amico 6, Boarotto 5 — Angele 6, Keenan 7. Coach Jim Rooney.
MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds 7 — Bennett 6, Clarke 6, Bruns 6, Doyle (sent off) — Drakeford 7, Cassar 7, O'Callaghan 6 — Sokoluk 6, Storton 6, Webster 6. Coach Bob McLachlan.
Best Player Award: Keenan (B) 3, Cassar (M) 2, Contini (B) 1.

HEIDELBERG 4 (Pappas 10th & 52nd, Anastasiadis 15th, Theodosopoulos 60th) ST ALBANS 1 (Duzel 85th).

At Olympic Village, Sunday. Referee N. Zacharides.
HEIDELBERG: Banovic 7 — Fraser 7, Outsalkis 7, Patiniotis 7, Kanesoulis 6 — Pappas 8, Lucchesi 8, Valentine 8 — Raines 8 — Anastasiadis 7, Theodosopoulos 7. Coach Terry Hennessy.
ST ALBANS: Grgic 6 — Dragovic 6, Kuzman 6, Colina 6, Juric 5 — Culina 6, Rastocic 5 (Macasevic 70th), Gaglia 6 — Kelic 5 (Cuze 80th), Popovski 5. Coach Tony Vrzina.
Best Player Award: Lucchesi (H) 3, Raines (H) 2, Pappas (H) 1.

BOX HILL 2 (McBride 57th, Burton 67th) RINGWOOD CITY 2 (Nijholt 44th, & 81st)

At Wembley Park, Sunday. Referee P. Matyski.
BOX HILL: McKinlay 6 — (Campbell 50th), Davidson 8, J. Mori 7, McMorow 7 — Brimmer 7, Burton 7, Roodhouse 7, McAleer 7 (Thomas 67th) — McBride 8, Aites 7. Coach John Brown.
RINGWOOD CITY: Blackley 6 — May 8, Convan 6, Cumming 7, Meyer 6 — Bates 7, Hughes 7, Nelson 7, Nijholt 8 — Middlemast 7, Davey 7. Coach Rob Nelson.
Best Player Award: Nijholt (R) 3, Davidson (BH) 2, McBride (BH) 1.

FAWKNER O THOMASTOWN 1 (Ragusa 90th).

At Smith Reserve, Sunday. Referee B. Ross.
FAWKNER: Terzini 6 — Walsh 7, Hennessy 7 (inj. Cullen HT 9), Ferla 6, Schipano 6 — Jankulovski 6, Traikovski 7 (Verrechia 60th), Anderson 7 — Sabatini 6, Storm 6, Brown (sent off). Coach Mike Lynn.
THOMASTOWN: Raponi 7 — Mihalidis 6, Higgins 7, Planalto 6, Arcoraci 6 — Dougherty 6, Carfora 7, Mihos 6, Lewis (inj.) — Ragusa 6, Athersych 7. Coach Bill Murray.
Best Player Award: Cullen (F) 3, Higgins (T) 2, Raponi (T) 1.

NORTHCOTE CITY 3 (Thodis 5th, & 30th, P. Constantinou 75th) WESTERN SUBURBS O

At John Cain Reserve, Sunday. Referee B. Upjohn.
NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia 6 — J. Constantinou 6, Palmariotti 7, Leonardos 6, Kouremenos 6 — Ramos 8, Woodall 7, Thodis 8, N. Constantinou 8 — Gilder 7, Bekiaris 6 (P. Constantinou 70th).
WESTERN SUBURBS: Hatzalazrou 6 — Markovski 5, Kontouri 6, Dimovski 6, Dragilov 6 — Esposito 6, Trevo 4, Kopsaftis 4, Hamill 5 — Turk 6, Metaxas 6. Coach Jim Condilis.
Best Player Award: N. Constantinou (N) 3, Ramos (N) 2, Thodis (N) 1.

CAULFIELD CITY O CROYDON CITY O

At Princes Park, Saturday. Referee D. Voutsinas.
CAULFIELD: Koletsos 7 — Bitsonis 7, Fattore 6, Harris 7, Filipou 7 — Theoharous 8, Alagizos 5, Griffin 5 — Zemunik 5 (Hamakiotis 85th), Armstrong 5 (Boutsinas 75th), Cozzella 4. Coach Rocco Ille.
CROYDON CITY: M. Runje 8 — van Egmond 6, Redmond 7, McIntosh 7, Brown 6 — Flavell 5, Campbell 5, Brack 5 — French 5, Humble 5, G. Runje 5 (Harbison 88th), Przybala 7. Coach Miron Bleiberg.
Best Player Award: M. Runje (Cr) 3, Theoharous (Caul) 2, Koletsos (Caul) 1.

OAKLEIGH O MARIBYRNONG 2 (Przybala, Debono pen.)

At Caloola Reserve Saturday. Referee T. Sorenson.
OAKLEIGH: Kardamitsas 5 — Laletas 4, J. Gusic 6, Grzymacher 5, Theodoropoulos 6 (Gourlias 70th) — Ross 7, Halford 6, Livingstone 7, Nicolaides 6 — Ward 6, Stamatis 6 (Andriotis 40th 6). Coach Takis Swiggos.
MARIBYRNONG: Kostazewa 6 — Lipiarski (sent off), Innes 7, Stojceviski 7, Smolarek 6 — Baran 7, Watson 6, Czapiuk 7, Chetcuti 6 — de Bono 9 (Cortis 77th), Przybala 7. Coach Jim McIntyre.
Best Player Award: de Bono (M) 3, Baran (M) 2, Ross (O) 1.

GREEN GULLY O SPRINGVALE O

At Gully Reserve, Sunday. Referee S. Zoumas.
GREEN GULLY: Sant 6 — Napoli 7, Cannell 8, McClelland 7, Crimaud 6 — O'Donnell 5, (Docherty 65th), Wilson 6, Farguason (inj. H.T. Cutler), Douglas 7 — Quigley 6, Smart 6. Coach Willie Vassallo.
SPRINGVALE CITY: Boland 7 — Rau 7, Adams 7, Bissinger 7, White 6 — Bryden 7 (Black 80th), Bell 7, Kraal 6, Hennessy 7 (Bozic 82nd) — Findlay 8, Morrey 8. Coach Gus MacLeod.
Best Player Award: Findlay (S) 3, Cannell (G.G.) 2, Morrey (S).

NORTHCOTE

PACIFIC TIMBER LEAGUE LADDERS

STATE LEAGUE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
NORTHCOTE CITY	3	3	0	0	6	0	6
HEIDELBERG UTD.	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
CROYDON CITY	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
THOMASTOWN	3	2	1	1	2	0	5

Green Gully	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
MARIBYRNONG	3	1	2	0	4	3	4
Springvale City	3	1	2	0	1	0	4
Box Hill	3	1	1	0	5	4	3
St Albans	3	1	1	1	4	6	3
Bulleen	3	0	2	1	2	1	2

Caulfield City	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Western Suburbs	3	0	2	2	2	5	2
Ringwood City	3	0	1	2	4	6	1
Norwell Falcons	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
Fawkner	3	0	0	3	0	3	0
Oakleigh	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES

STATE LEAGUE RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caulfield City	3	3	0	0	16	3	6
Ringwood City	3	2	1	0	13	5	5
Fawkner	3	2	0	1	11	4	4
Norwell Falcons	3	2	0	1	12	7	4
Northcote City	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Bulleen	3	2	0	1	7	4	4
Maribyrnong	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
Box Hill	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Green Gully	3	1	1	1	7	7	3
Croydon City	3	1	1	1	10	12	3
Heidelberg Utd.	3	1	1	1	5	7	3
St. Albans	3	1	1	1	6	10	3
Thomastown	3	1	0	2	2	3	2
Springvale City	3	0	0	3	3	12	0
Western Suburbs	3	0	0	3	2	13	0
Oakleigh	3	0	0	3	1	15	0

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

STATE LEAGUE — ROUND 4

Saturday March 26th 1988

ST ALBANS v. MARIBYRNONG

OAKLEIGH v. BOX HILL

Sunday March 27th 1988

MORWELL FALCONS v. CAULFIELD CITY

WESTERN SUBURBS v. BULLEEN

CROYDON CITY v. FAWKNER

THOMASTOWN v. GREEN GULLY

HEIDELBERG UNITED v. SPRINGVALE CITY

RINGWOOD CITY v. NORTHCOTE CITY

State League Club Maribyrnong Polonia

requires players in the Under/17 to Under/20 age groups.

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A.H. and ask for Henry Skrobak.

Rovers success has its penalties

DONCASTER Rovers under new coach Kris Kalitidis, has set a club and probably a Victorian record by winning two successive rounds of the Dockerty Cup, and the first round of Metro Cup on a penalty shoot out.

Rovers beat Williams-town 5-4 and then went on to beat Triestina the following week 7-6. Last week Rovers travelled to Mornington to defeat the home side 8-7, a total of 20 goals in three games! Rovers hope its good fortune will continue by being granted the Dockerty Cup double header on its ground on Easter Monday.

Doncaster Rovers clubrooms are playing facilities are second to none in Victorian soccer and belies its position in the second division in 1988.

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THE 1988 DOCKERTY CUP

SETS THE PACE

THE question that is exercising everyone's mind at the moment is what has happened at Northcote?

How can a team that struggled all last season and only escaped relegation by the skin of its teeth come out afresh for the '88 campaign and be sitting on top of the table after three games, and without having conceded a goal, what's more?

In search of the answer to this riddle, this week we sought out coach Roy McLaren and asked him

'what is making Northcote tick this year?'

After a stint at the club last year, McLaren left, but returned in January. His first reaction to the question was, "modesty forbids me to answer", but then he got serious.

"It's a combination of factors," he says.

"For one thing, there's a different committee this year and I think the players have more confidence in the club. Also I brought in three players who are having a tremendous influence, Martin Woodall Robert, Palmariotti and Stan Thodis.

"And they have now been reinforced up the front by a player with a lot of NSL experience, Carl Gilder, who still has a lot to offer.

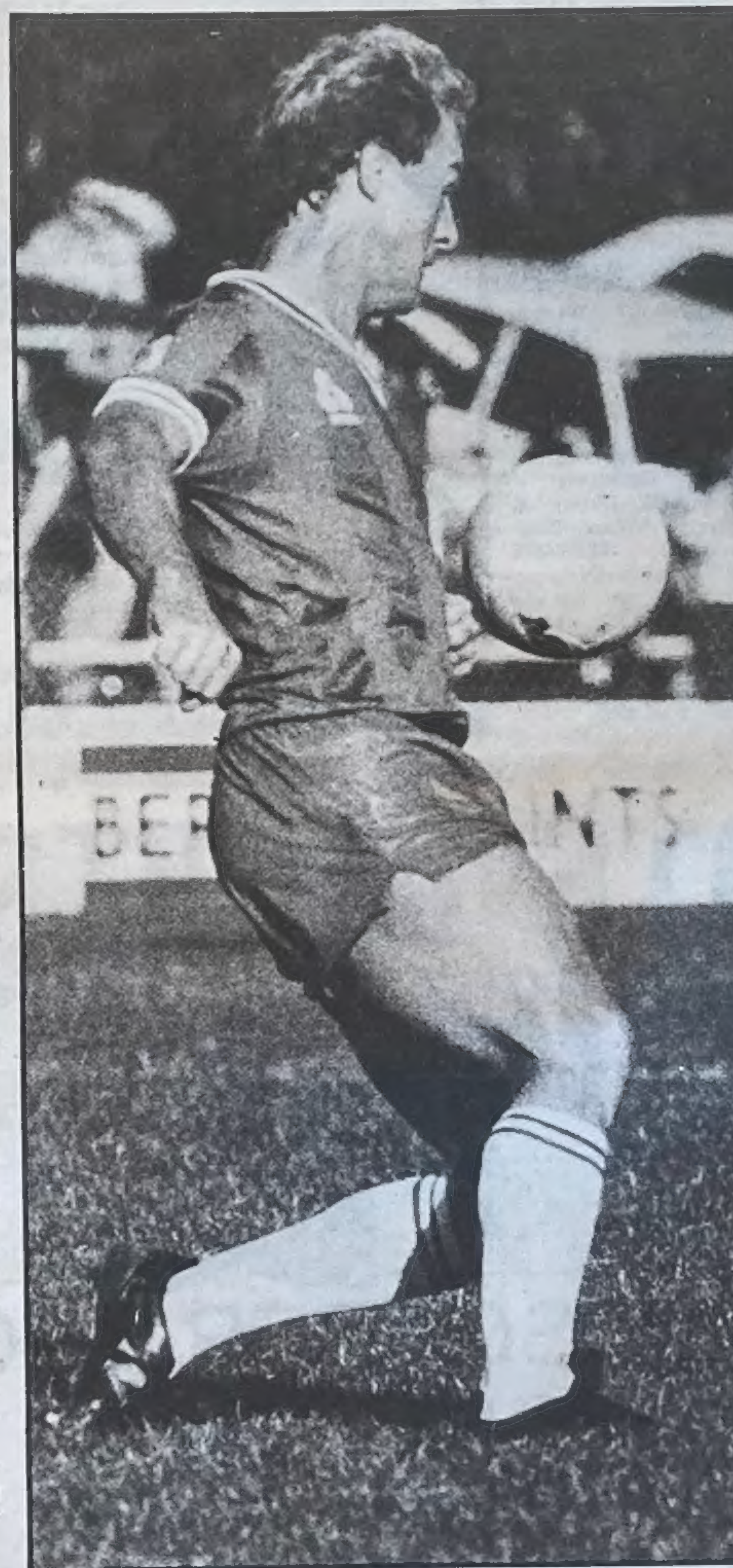
"Martin Woodall is a tremendous player in the middle of the park. He's genuinely two-footed, which is a rare ability these days, and of course he's had a wealth of experience in Non-League football in the UK."

"But what about his experience with Preston when he was here two years ago," I asked.

"Preston played him in the midfield but they discarded him because they reckoned he was too slow."

"Ah yes," says Roy McLaren, "but it isn't a matter of how quick you are to move, it's more a matter of whether you are quick-thinking or not, and this boy has a football brain. He has brought a lot of stability to our midfield, while Palmariotti is doing a great job at the back.

"Then there's Stan Thodis whom I came to regard highly in my short



• Carl Gilder

spell at Heidelberg. Stan had been a very good player in junior ranks, but at Heidelberg he was only a small fish in a big pond.

"I always thought I'd get him if the opportunity arose and as he showed with his two goals last week my faith has been justified.

"But don't forget we have played three home games in succession. This week we go to Ringwood and that's the acid test."

"It's one thing to perform at home, it's how you perform away that counts."

Although Ringwood has yet to win a game, Northcote won't find it easy because Rob Nelson is pretty confident he has found the right blend, and he's been a wee bit unlucky.

Well, he was confident enough until he found that his committee wants to get rid of three of

his squad, namely Chris Middlemast, Andy Hughes and Gary Bates.

Has the same panic that infected Fawkner last week spread to Ringwood already. Maybe it's a new disease, with the suggested name of Reillyitis, brought on by dread of being caught in the bottom six at the end of the season.

You can probably put down Northcote as an away banker after that bit of

State League Preview

By BRIAN JAMES

news, and Northcote will be desperate to get the points, to keep in front of Heidelberg, which is looking more and more menacing with every game.

It's not often that you hear paeans of praise for an opposition team but St Albans coach Tony Vrzina was full of it after his team was beaten last week by the Bergers.

"A fair score would have been something like 6-3 in their favour," he said.

"They came straight at us from the kick-off and at times they threatened to swamp us. My lads did

well and fought to the end, but at one stage we cleared off our goal-line four times in rapid succession, that's how much they were on top.

Heidelberg is at home again on Sunday to Springvale City and that's a game that promises to be a cracker, because Springvale coach Gus MacLeod never takes a backward step as a player and his teams are expected to play the same way.

This is Vale's fourth successive away game and it has yet another next week before it can turn out before its own fans at Ross Reserve.

I think Gus will have laid his plans well enough to come away from the Olympic Village with a draw.

Third-placed Croydon meets a desperate Fawkner which has not a point or a goal to its credit after three games.

Mind you, Croydon isn't exactly setting the world on fire, it has scored only twice itself, but it has a very solid defence, just ask Caulfield's forwards, and in Mirko Runje one of the

Cont. Page 12.

MICROWAVE

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best goalkeepers in the League.

Runje has kept a clean sheet so far, and if his cousin Goran can find his shooting boots again, Fawcner could be in trouble.

Still I'm sure they won't fire Mike Lynn if the team loses this week. Mike Lynn's old team Thomastown, has been

going along nicely under quiet Bill Murray but it comes under a severe test this week, against Green Gully.

We mentioned last week that Maribyrnong's mere presence in the League this year was a miracle, given the financial problems last season's champions went through.

Lucky or survive or not, Maribyrnong has a chance to climb into the four this week, especially if Greg Warszawski has recovered from a hamstring problem.

Warszawski is invaluable to Maribyrnong, even if he does put up his hand to be taken off late in the game after he has scored the inevitable goal.

Coach Jim McIntyre even considered using him last week, but he did all right without him, by winning at Oakleigh, but the win was not without its problems, as Ricky Lipiarski was sent off.

Bottom-placed Oakleigh could increase the furrows on Takis Sviggos' forehead if it doesn't beat bustling Box Hill this week.

I believe likeable Takis resigned last week, then changed his mind and stayed. His team will be reinforced this week by new arrival Jim Gorst, a centre-back who played for top non-League club Northwich Victoria.

The Caulfield hierarchy is at its wits-end trying to fathom the team's present goal-less slump.

You'd think that with three strikers like Bruno Cozzella, Danny Zemunik and Richie Armstrong a team would be busting the net week in and week out, but in the goal-scoring stakes, Caulfield is still a virgin.

It won't find it easy at Morwell either. If Rocco Ile comes home with a draw, he'll probably be well pleased, but he'd probably prefer a few goals. Caulfield last week lacked width and it didn't help that Nick Deligiannis was injured and Mike Hamakiotis came on very late.

Western Suburbs caved in unexpectedly against Northcote last week, and if it doesn't pull up its socks soon, it will find itself in trouble.

Bulleen might be seeking its first win, but it is a better team than its record suggests, and once Robert Krajacic is back, teams will find it hard to score against.

This week's forecasts: SATURDAY: Morwell Falcons v. Caulfield City (draw) at North Crinigan Reserve.

St. Albans v. Maribyrnong at Churchill Reserve, Oakleigh v. BOX HILL at Caloola Reserve.

SUNDAY: Western Suburbs v. Bulleen (draw) at Ralph Reserve, CROYDON CITY v. Fawcner at Town Park, Thomastown v. Green Gully (draw) at Partridge Reserve, Heidelberg v. Springvale (draw) at Olympic Village, Ringwood City v. NORTHCOTE CITY at Jubilee Park.

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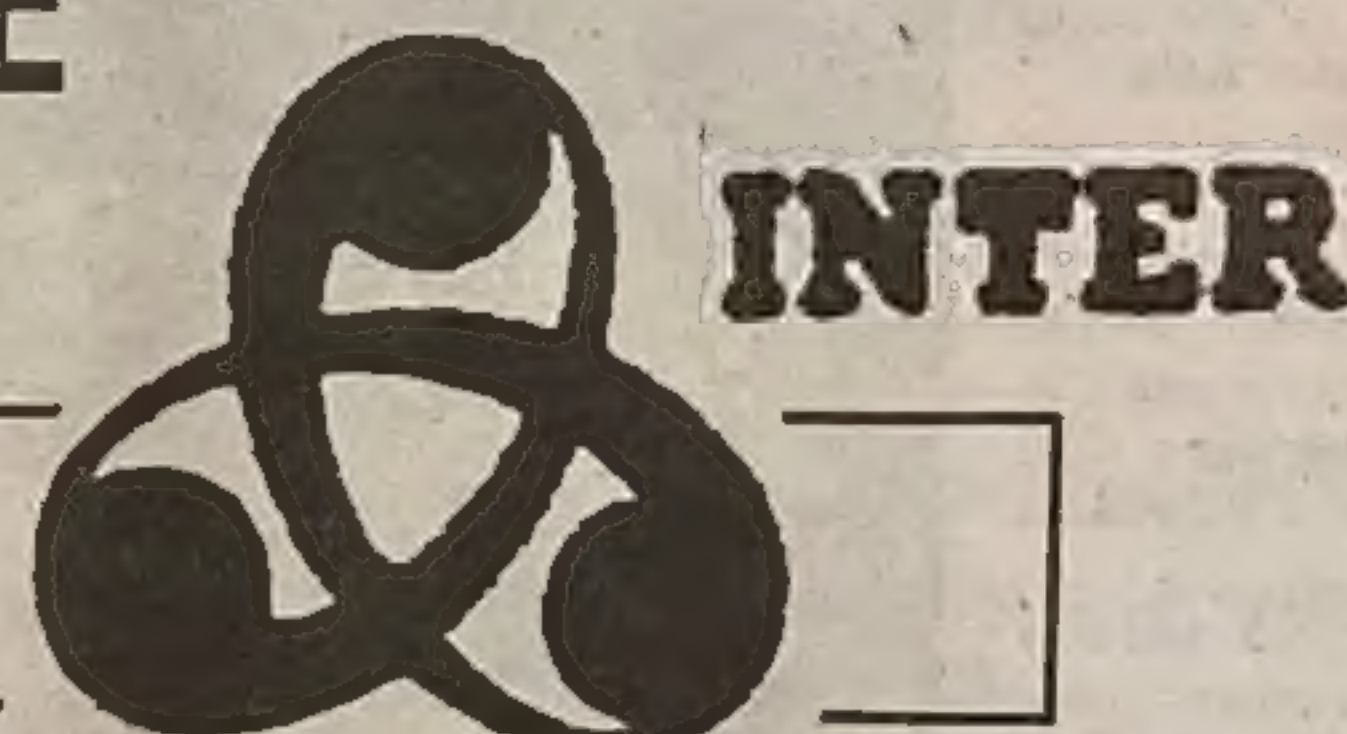


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Soccer Star's



Action-Packed Picture Page



● Caulfield's Phil Griffin slides to tackle Croydon's Gordon Flavell.



● Caulfield's Richie Armstrong.



● Croydon's Mick Van Egmond tackles Andy Theoharous.



● Richie Armstrong beats Croydon's Dave McIntosh.

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NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND EIGHT SUNDAY MARCH 27



Branko Micevich

MELBOURNE CROATIA V FOOTSCRAY

OLYMPIC PARK

KICK OFF 2.30 PM



Ken Murphy



Ron Campbell

PRESTON MAKEDONIA V SYDNEY OLYMPIC

CONNOR RESERVE

KICK OFF 2.30 PM



Gary Meier



John Markovski

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS V WOLLONGONG

CHAPLIN RESERVE

KICK OFF 2.30 PM



Danny Crainie



Steve Tasios

SOUTH MELBOURNE V BRISBANE LIONS

MIDDLE PARK

KICK OFF 2.30 PM



Alan Niven

ADELAIDE CITY V MARCONI
at OLYMPIC SPORTSFIELD KICK OFF 2.30 PM

ST. GEORGE V APIA and SYDNEY CROATIA V B. JUVENTUS
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